

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A piezoelectric actuator for moving and positioning a load, the actuator comprising:

a piezoelectric body having a plurality of electrodes and a coupling surface which is pressed to a load to frictionally couple the body to the load; and

a power supply operable to electrify at least one electrode of the plurality of electrodes with DC voltage to displace the coupling surface and drag thereby the load to a desired position, which DC voltage the power supply maintains to maintain the load at the desired position.

25. (New) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 24 wherein displacements generated by the DC voltage applied by the power supply are substantially collinear.

26. (New) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 24 wherein the DC voltage is controllable to generate displacements that are not collinear.